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STATUS QUO:

A

POLITICAL SATIRE.

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[by James Sayers]

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ADVERTISEMENT.

IN regard to the following excellent Satire, the Publisher has only to acknowledge, that it was first published in the Anti-Jacobin Review and Magazine for March, and was dated 5th February. As several gentlemen have ascribed the celebrated Poem of "All the Talents," to the author of "Elijah's Mantle," the Publisher takes this opportunity of stating, that such conjecture is entirely without foundation.

41, Pall Mall,
4th April, 1807.

960684

THE

UTI POSSIDETIS,

AND

STATUS QUO.

1

YE Ministers of Britain's State,
Form'd of *all talent*, good and great,
Like GROTIUS vers'd in treaties;
What, though *abroad* ye marr'd the scene,
Tell us what 'tis *at home* you mean
By th' uti possidetis?

2

Is it that you possess the store
Of merit that you had before
You took the public duty?
If that be all the praise you want,
The Opposition Bench will grant
You possidetis uti.

3

But, if we judge by what is past,
Say how your merit's to be class'd,
Where worth's, where wisdom's, seat is
Made up of strange discordant parts?
None, but "the Searcher of all hearts,"
Can tell quid possidetis.

4

Was patriot Virtue erst your guide,
Or did ye list on Faction's side,
And plead her cause?—siletis!
Maidstone's and Newgate's Rolls have nam'd
The Patriot Whigs for whom ye claim'd
The uti possidetis.

5

United now in Friendship's bands,
What Principle connects your hands?
Your Union's basis show:
Is it the Treasury's Rosy Bed?
Or is it—that ye view with dread
Your wretched status quo?

6

If on Finance you build your fame,
To PITT's account transfer your claim,
To him—its state debetis:
Last year—a woeful tale ye feign'd,
Of "wasted funds, resources drain'd,"
A bankrupt possidetis.

7

Courted by Fox in language sweet,
Could BENEVENT refuse to treat?
Politeness would compel him:
'Tis strange, that Peace should look so queerly
On men who fraterniz'd so dearly
At Paris, ante Bellum.

8

Tho' favour'd YARMOUTH might be coax'd,
Fox was too cunning to be hoax'd—
MAITLAND a Scot discreet is;
From such Negotiators, say,
How could your Basis slip away,
Your uti possidetis?

9

When PITT's good genius bless'd the land,
No fond regard for TALLEYRAND
Mix'd with his country's duty;
He—for his Sovereign and the Nation
Reserv'd his high Consideration,
Nor would have left—*to Implication*
Our possidetis uti.

10

Allied to PITT, in early day,
GRENVILLE! the People mark'd your way,
And deem'd you—his ACHATES;
With him your patriot ardour fled,
But left *one* Maxim in its stead—
The ut possideatis.

11

To you (their Treasury Baal), now,
Whigs, neutraliz'd with Tories, bow,
And croud to touch your shoe-tie:
O'CONNOR's Friends shall praise your name,
And future PAINES and HARDYS claim
Their possidetis uti.

12

The *Brissotine* your hand shall kiss!
Spirit of CHATHAM! know'st thou this?
Ye Pittites! quid ridetis?
GRENVILLES and TEMPLES long ago
To *British Worthies* gave at Stow
The uti possidetis.

13

GRENVILLE! though in your state array
You number WINDHAM, PETTY, GREY,
Will none of them play booty?
These Whigs are difficult to tame,
They must oppose, and scout your claim
To th' possidetis uti.

14

Though pure your heart, and clean your hands,
And high your rate of merit stands,
Nil valet quod meretis,
Some Brew'r, in rude but licens'd speech,
Sans proof—that merit shall impeach,
And quash your possidetis.

15

GREY, tutor'd long in FOX's school,
By mild ST. VINCENT taught to rule,
A loftier port will show;
Haply your Cabinet divide,
Nor deign to leave your Tory side
Their half o' th' status quo.

16

Yet HOWICK ! if thou'rt still the same
As ere this *alias* grac'd thy name,
What are thy merits ? tell 'em !
Sea-Statesman thou *a-ground* would'st be!
Land-Statesman thou art now *at Sea!*
Hoc statu geris Bellum.

17

Nurtur'd in MALAGRIDA's lap,
Imbibing Politics with pap,
PETTY !—thy worth we know :
As SOLON sage in earliest youth,
A TULLY, e'er you shed a tooth ;
This was your status quo.

18

What are your state acquirements now?
The nimble step,—or graceful bow,
To dancing nymphs a treat is:
Ye Tellers of the Exchequer's score!
Count on *one Petty-tally* more,
Dum PETTY possidetis.

19

WINDHAM! thy talents who can class?
Shall I detail 'em, or, en masse,
With thy new levies rate 'em?
Though France *kill off* our vet'ran force,
Thy Bills provide a second course
To feed our Belli-statum.

20

Thy weather-gauge is mov'd by squalls;
With *Ins* and *Outs* ascends and falls:
Now at the dog-star's heat 'tis;
Thy schemes, in quick rotation twirl'd,
Would change the poles, nor leave the world
Their uti possidetis.

21

With CRAUFURD for thy bully-back,
What Windmills will ye next attack?
What *pastry* overthrow?
PITT's quota men, and volunteers,
Stript of their jackets, hang their ears,
And take their status quo.

22

CADMUS sow'd serpents' teeth of old,
Arm'd men sprung up, and were so bold,
No constable could quell 'em!
Try this! Red-coats like prawns or shrimps,
Arm'd at all points, shall show thy crimps
The status ante Bellum.

23

Now should NAPOLEON'S angry host
In Boulogne's Flota brave our coast,
No matter where our Fleet is:
A fig for gun-boats and corvettes,
Martello towers and martinets,
In posse possidetis.

24

Pure as the fount from which it rose,
Britain! thy stream of justice flows,
Ye vallies!—nunc cantetis.
Should party feuds pollute its source,
Or Faction interrupt its course,
Nil tanti possidetis.

25

Ye BACONS, COKE, and HARDWICKE, say!
(Juris periti of your day,
Astute in points and cases),
Was it on frothy declamation,
Or deep and close investigation,
You form'd your legal basis?

26

When Keeper HATTON held the Seals,
Though he was tripping with his heels
And light fantastic toe;
BESS knew, before she gave the Mace,
That Loyalty, not less than grace,
Compos'd his status quo.

27

Had Maidstone's Patriot sought his aid,
He would as soon have vouch'd for CADE;
ERSKINE and Co.—tacetis:
'Tis strange (to judge him by the sequel)
You e'er should think his worth could equal
Your uti possidetis.

28

When PITT the British Senate grac'd,
ERSKINE! thy judgment was unbrac'd,
Thy tongue forgot its duty!
Now SOLOMON must yield to thee,
And SEYMOUR's friend will guarantee
Your possidetis uti.

29

Since Amiens' farce amus'd the land,
Doctor, hast thou improv'd thy hand
At making war or treaties?
With brother HILEY at thy back,
Which is the Statesman, which the Quack,
Quid ambo possidetis?

30

With these, and Ministers like these,
England! canst thou be "ill at ease?"
Vain are thy fears—dispel 'em!
With all the Talent of the Nation
Focuss'd in Cab'net concentration,
Securè geris bellum.

31

And you,—ye Pilots of the Realm!
Trim well your sails, and mind the helm!
Your charge—a proud first rate is;
But should you wreck the nation's hope,
O! may her anchor lend a rope,
Quod vos possideatis.

THE END.

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